



ON THE DRAWING BOARD

NO. 11



UNDER THE ARCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

No, not you, US! Yep, according to Jerry Balls, this month is technically the 6th birthday of On The Drawing Board. In March of 1961, Jerry, with the assistance of Roy Thomas, published the first issue of Alter Ego, and this issue contained the first appearance of OTDB. The second appearance of OTDB was in AE 2, the 3rd appearance was in Comicollector 1, and the 4th appearance (in October of 1961) was as a completely independent publication. For the knowledge bugs in the class, we'll tell you that the title OTDB ran until issue 7, and with the 8th ish the title became The Comic Reader. TCR also appeared on occasion in Mike Vosburg's Masquerader and G.B. Love's Rocket's Blast. Glen Johnson carried the ball from issues 26 to 41, and then turned it over to Derrill Rothermich who did 42-47. At this point TCR was suspended indefinitely, though now it will be revived by Dave Kaler as an article zine. Meanwhile, OTDB has taken over the news/business part of TCR, and continued the old tradition.

Before I forget, I would like to apologize for an error in last issue regarding the artist on the Captain Atom pic that graced this column. When Dave sent the illo, he assumed I'd know the artist was none other than Dick Giordano. I didn't...and our apologies to both Dick and Steve Ditko.

WOW! Gang, when we said we intended to limit the size and scope of the Academy Forum column, we did not mean for you to stop writing! Indeed, we simply meant that we no longer wished to concern ourselves with the past of the Academy and to concentrate on proposals etc. for the future. If you've been wondering why the column has been so sparse in the last couple of issues, it is due to the fact that we simply had no letters to print. Now I know full well that comic fans are among the most opinionated folk there be, and I know too, that you've got a good deal of interest in the Academy. So why are you not expressing it? Let's get back on the stick and drop us a few lines of comment. On the same subject, let me mention that this issue's Forum contains some letters which actually don't deal with the Academy, but do deal with this publication. Letters are an important part of any zine, so I felt justified in including these. However there is now a difficulty in deciding whether to have two columns of letters, one for Academy goings on, and one for comment on OTDB. I think what we may do is simply allot a certain amount of room at the end of the column for comment on OTDB alone...but in the meantime, let's hear some comments or ideas on the subject from you.

Bob Cosgrove brings up several points in this issue about our fanzine information. The manner in which we have presented the fanzine news does not appeal to him, and we'd like to know how the rest of you feel. However, it should be noted that room is a big problem in OTDB. At times, the Ego Crusher in TCR ran over two pages, and we cannot give more than two pages in each

issue to this matter. John McGeehan fills us in on fanzines that have appeared each month. His ratings are based on how well that zine fulfills its purpose. For example, the purpose of all zines is to entertain...this is why we enjoy this hobby, however, an article zine also has the purpose of teaching us in certain ways, but if it doesn't, or if it does a poor job as a result of poor editing or rehashing old articles, it cannot compete with a good article zine. Likewise, the purpose of a strip zine is solely entertainment, and if you are not entertained, the zine has failed. Naturally the cost of the zine and the quality of reproduction are taken into consideration, but these are not as important as the purpose of the zine.

Well, to get to the point, after John's index, there is little room for much else as far as a good zine review is concerned. We editors feel that you won't get as much out of the short, skip-over-content type review as you do out of the in-depth sort that serves almost as a critique to the editor as well as a review. To zines who come out regularly, we will no doubt get to you eventually, but it is rather difficult to do a meaningful review in a short paragraph or two...and as an example, look at last issues review...it could hardly have been more compact than it was, and to do so would have lessened its effectiveness. So, hear again, we ask your opinions. We will give you what you will get the most out of...but you must let us know.

Regarding the matter of the DC Trade Center, we would like to point out that though it may seem like it, our comments in this issue are NOT contrary or in opposition to those we ran last time. However, Dave Esser and his assistant Walt Coddington made the purpose and goals of this group quite clear to me, and you will find the TRUE details of this matter, summed up in finality, in this issue. Please read it carefully.

Bob Greene, editor of Dateline: Comicdom, has requested that we discontinue the use of that name for our zine index. He felt that though there are similarities, the two were not quite the same in purpose. Now we need a name for this column...and we want suggestions from you.

We know that many of you are anxious to know when Gosh Wow will be out, so let us tell you that by the time you read this, we will have 40 of the pages printed. 24 have already been printed, and currently reside in a large box under my desk (which doubles as a Ping-Pong table when clear; which is never.) The delay is due, as we have pointed out before, to a switch in printers, and lack of sufficient funds. However, we've not much farther to go, and now that the remainder of our ads are in circulation, we will probably have the funds to complete it soon. Such delays bother us much more than they do you (believe it or not), and we are most anxious to see this zine completed. Just bear with us a bit longer--huh?

ON THE DRAWING BOARD, VOLUME 2, NUMBER 11, WHOLE NUMBER 58, MARCH 1967

OTDB (formerly called The Comic Reader) is published monthly by the Gateway Comic Art Fan Club, c/o Robert Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Mo. 63114.

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Overseas subscriptions: 50¢ per issue, or 40¢ per issue to members of the Academy. Use International MO.

No portion of these contents may be reprinted in whole or in part without the expressed permission of the publisher.

For inclusion in OTDB, materials must reach us by the first of the month. Usually, OTDB will be out by the second or third week.

Persons who would supply us with news should send same to Dave Kaler for verification. Contributions of news or artwork receive free copies, with regular contributors receiving their copies flat.

Art credits for this issue are: pg.1--Steve Kelez; pg.2--Hugh Surratt; pg.5 is Johnny Chambers and Jim Gardner; News credits can be found in Late Notes and Notices.

Advertisement rates are \$3 per quarter page to any fanzine editor. This should be prepared camera-ready by the advertiser, and in a size of 4" high by 12" wide. This will be printed horizontally, and should be doubled in height for 1/2, 3/4 or full page ads.

Back issues still available are:
#6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11....at 25¢ apiece...35¢ flat.

print run for this issue is 500 with the exception of our special editorial page which will be circulated by us to several other fanzines.

RAVEN



WHAT'S NEWS

DAVE KALER

WEISINGER'S SUPERMEN

The "real" Clark Kent shows up and reveals who Superman really is in Superman 198.

In Lois Lane 75, the man of steel helps Lois become the dictator of a banana republic.

When the Gambler takes a bet to come up with the secret identity of Superboy, the odds are in his favor; in Superboy 140.

In Jimmy Olson 103, Superman turns Jimmy in for manslaughter in the murder of Clark Kent.

An outer-space safari ensues when the Hunter takes on the job of stalking the Legion in Adventure 358.

NATIONAL'S VIET NAM POLICY

The war strips involving the present martial conflict have all been dropped by National. Mr. Donenfeld stated to the press that, "This is not a popular war in the sense that it is not backed 100 per cent by the public." The sales returns on these books also revealed that anything dealing with Viet Nam on the cover was suffering on the newsstands.

ACG'S WEIRD

Science fiction tales predominate the titles coming from ACG the next few months. Forbidden Worlds 144 features "Click! Click! The Machine!" and "Little Green Man". Number 145 features the tale of "The Timeless Tribe".

"Fuhrenbauer's Fake Folks, R.U.R." leads off Adventures Into The Unknown 174.

Unknown Worlds 57 has "Someone Looking Out for You", and "When the Gizmo Blew A Gasket!" Gasp 4 features the supernatural tale, "You've Got To Relax", and "The Grey Ghost!"

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

England has recently put out a new paper that will no doubt cause fandom's completists a bit of difficulty. TV Tornado, a weekly, contains text tales of Batman, Superman and the Men From UNCLE. It is also reprinting Sunday Flash Gordon by Raboy and the Phantom by Barry. Also, an English writer and artist are producing a new Tarzan series for each issue of this publication.

The Italians have been catching up on their Micky Mouse by reprinting the very early strips from the mid-1930's in large size magazines. Three of these have already appeared in the states at this writing.

RADIO COMICS

The June issue of Mighty Comics (#47) features the Black Hood battling his most famous villain of the Golden Age, the Skull! And from out of Limbo comes the ghostly figure of Mr. Justice to fill out the issue.

MILSON COMICS

Captain Shazam has been delayed for a few months until C.C. Beck can work the new hero into his schedule which is currently quite filled with Fatman. Meanwhile, Tin Man drops out of the pages of Fatman to return to college and another character pops up to take his place.

MARVEL COMICS

The Marvel Bullpen are looking forward to issuing some new titles within the next year, but they want to spring them on the fans as surprises in the same way that they handled the Ghost Rider. The first title will be out soon, and it's not exactly what the super hero fans will be looking for in the way of comics. But if you wait, the new lineup of artists on the staff may be able to move one of the leading two characters in a title he shares into his own book. But this will take planing, and it won't happen over-night.

HUMOR FROM KING

Popeye, out in April, turns more toward the TV cartoon series when Brutus turns up to battle the old sea-dog.

Beetle Bailey and his outfit turn the countryside upside down in a frantic search for Sarge's pooch.

And in Blondie, we find Dagwood making one of his wayout/normal mistakes and "Strikes It Rich!" for a little while.

BOLTINOFF'S BEST

That female villainess, The Hood, has helped the Thunder-Man escape from Prison, and together they provide many headaches for the Rangers in #101.

Jerry Lewis is "reaching new highs" when he goes astro-batty with rockets in #101.

When Plasticman takes on the identity of a wayout weirdo, the same creep shows up to provoke the stretchable sleuth in the case of "The 1,001 Plas-assins!"; all in #5.

CHARLTON CHANGES

Dick Giordano has taken steps to bring about several changes in the Charlton mags, and they will become noticeable in the next few months.

One such change is the removal of the "CDC" label and it will be replaced by a large "C" with the word "Charlton" written through it.

Other changes have recently appeared, or will appear soon in the different types of comics put out by this company. Three Hot-Rod titles will be changing their names and receiving colorful logos. On top of that, the books will each contain a continuing character in adventure tales involving racing and with their share of villains besides.

In the western lineup, Captain Doom is now featured in Outlaws of The West while Riley's Rangers are the main characters in Texas Rangers. New characters are likewise being added to the other western titles.

The war line is getting its share of battle stars to feature each issue. Fightin' Army starts out with "The Lonely War of Willie Schultz!", involving a hero of German decent caught between the lines and wanted by both sides. Army War Heroes adds the Iron Corporal with his midsection of iron to battle the Japs along side the Aussies in WWII. Then, in War Heroes, you will find The Devils Brigade, a group composed of two 4-man tank crews.

JACK SCHIFF

Batman 193 becomes the 80-Page Giant, and features reprints of tales with the Caped Crusader in South America, both as a public servant and as a monarch. To top off the issue, there is another newspaper strip to treat those fans who have tired of the usual reprints.

Robby Reed dials up the Mole and the Cometeer again to battle off "The Marouding Moon Man" and adds the Hoop-Master to the lists of crime fighters he's become. This is in House of Mystery 168.

There's a new Robinson Crusoe in Strange Adventures 202 only this time he's stranded on a piece of earth blown a mile into the air.

RADIO MEMORIES

A rather expensive item, but one which may interest fans, is "The Golden Memories of Radio" album being offered by the Longines Symphonette Society. There are 6 records in the set which includes excerpts from such shows as The Shadow, Jack Armstrong, and the Lone Ranger. The cost is \$14.98 for mono (add \$1.80 for stereo) for which you receive the set and a bonus album of radio theme music. Send money orders or checks to the Longine Symphonette Society, Symphonette Square, Larchmont, N.Y. 10538.

CHARLTON HEROES

Thunderbolt 58 features the mental master returning to the cave of peaks to face the Hooded One, and in so doing, runs into a lovely and mysterious piece of femininity. In the back of the same book, the Sentinels meet the Mindbender.

Judo Master 96 has The Acrobat moving in once again for "The Final Phase" of destroying Judomaster, while Sarge Steel continues his search for "The Village Moneyman".

Captain Atom 87 has the Atomic Ace battling the "Fiery Icer" in the Caribbean while Nightshade finds solo action against The Image in Washington and reveals some of her origin at that time.

Blue Beetle 2 has both Beetles in it, with the action taking place on the mysterious Pago Island against androids in "The Beginning of The End!" while the Question Mark vs. The Banshee!

Peacemaker 3 finds the action taking place underwater when a scientist plots to remake men into water-breathers in "Our Future World!" The Fightin' Five start undercover work by looking for Communist agents in the US in the tale of "The Card Carrier!"

BUBBLE GUM CARDS

Some time back, we mentioned in these pages a set of cards made by the Topps people on Superman. Al Plastino did the art while Gary Frederichs wrote the captions for them. It featured Superman caught up in an African adventure. The first sets were made up and released in a few select test areas to see how sales would go. Well, they were bad, and the full run of cards was called off. Those already out may very well become collectors items to interested fans.

But Topps has cornered Wally Wood and set him down at the ol' drawing board to set up a series of cards based on the National Characters. Combining these with the novel idea of foldup illoes, the cards are nicely drawn and have some amusing ideas of combining super-heroes and incongruous characters and other things. These are on sale now.

HUMOR/EXCITEMENT FROM DC

The Inferior Five teams up with Darwin of the apes in order to locate the missing Dr. Livingroom in the city of Oompah in issue 3.

A surprising team up occurs in the pages of Green Lantern 54 when Hal Jordan and Green Lantern fight side-by-side to defeat the menace of the Iron Lung...a device created by Baron Diablo.

Batman and Robin take on the Joker in the "House that the Joker Built" in Detective 365 when Joker items go on sale at lower prices than Batman items at the local stores of Gotham City.

GEORGE KASHDAN

All the ocean bubbles when a monstrous menace sets out to show his love for Mera and steal her away from Aquaman in #34.

The entire Blackhawk crew is decked out in new uniforms to face the "Terrible Twins" in #234.

The Teen Titans take on the Scorchers and his bike buzzards in #10, leaving hot rubber behind.

When the Element Girl is brought out of her deep-freeze in Metamorpho 13 to join in the action, Sapphire grows red and jealous.

ARCHIE COMICS

Radio Comics revealed, in the February issue of Best-sellers magazine, that their titles had sold almost 50 million books last year! The article went on to tell the origin and first appearance of the teen-age comic star. It also mentions that there is a record called "Idol-Ness in Riverdale" on sale which includes dialogue and features all of Archie's friends on the jacket and in the score.

PAPERBACKS

Holt, Rinehart and Winston have released a new reprint of Charles Schulz' Peanuts strips under the title of The Unsinkable Charlie Brown for \$1.00.

Bantam has released the latest Doc Savage novel, the 16th of the series, this one being The Spook Legion; look for F3340.

Andy Capp by Smythe is back in another collection of reprints, this one being "Man of the Hour" from Gold Medal, K1763.

That wacky housekeeper, Hazel, is back in another collection of Post strips by Ted Key. It is published by Banner; F3325.

1967 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER FOR: THE ACADEMY OF COMIC ART FANS AND COLLECTORS

Mark Hanerfeld
Stan Landman
Rick Seward
Dr. A. McClure
J. Ingersol
Pat Draine
A. McCaughan
P. Gambaccini
Ray Elliot
A. Valgeme
J. Good
M. Rosenblat
S. Dickman
R. Schoenfeld
D. Kaler
W.G. Lee
J.F. Felszynski
Gabe Eisenstein
L. Mitchell
R.M. Barritt
Steve Chapman
Dick Feenberg
James Simmons
Ed Gee

Mike Rothman
Dave Nelson
Rich Burgess
John Pecala Jr.
Ken Loriden
Noel Kerr
Van Taylor
Rick Wald
Chris Walker
Mike Redman
Alan Renfrow
Leon Vergetis
Mike Redding
Luis Gasca
Pete Phillips
Shel Dorf
Chris Harder
Jim Rummell
Rick Durrell
H.J. Boyle
L.R. Waggoner
Gary Goldstein
Ron Wilson
Stan Pachon

Jim McKelvey
Ken Mitchell
David J. Esser
Gary Odom
Richard Pitera
Buddy Saunders
Dan Merkur
Ben Katchor
Martin Bovie
Bruce Williams
Tom McGeehan
Andy Yanchus

Jeff Pollack
Doug Johnson
Raymond Elliot
Mike Raub
Yance Parrish
Phil Resseguie
William Schwer
Bob Cosgrove
Dennis Richard
John McGeehan
Gary Brown

You too can become a member by simply sending your \$2.00 to Executive Secretary David Kaler, Box 392, Cooper Station, New York, NY. 10003. There are still a few openings left for those first 100 members who will receive free copies of the autographed Academy Comicon Booklet, so don't delay.

IRWIN NAT

JAMES H. GARDNER



IRWIN, GROWING SICK OF EGERMAN'S CREATIONS, DEVELOPS ONE OF HIS OWN AND "DISPLAYS" IT TO EGERMAN IN HIS OWN FASHION.



THE LITTLE GREEN DINOSAUR



... AS THE LITTLE GREEN...
CROW...



Henry Chambers

FANZINE INDEX

John McGeehan

EXPLANATION:

In order of their appearance: Title, latest issue, date received, number of pages (number of blank pages), address, printing process, price folded (additional amount for flat copies), rating number. "as" is ama strip, and "ERB" stands for a Burroughs zine.

RATING SYSTEM

- (5) A zine worth any fan's money.
- (4) For all but the most discriminating fan.
- (3) An average zine for buying after 5s and 4s.
- (2) For those with charitably or masochistic tendencies.
- (1) For completists, friends, and parents.

Bombshell (#6-Feb 16 '67) 62pgs, Tony Rutherford, 1046 Jackson Ave; Huntington, W.Va; 25704. Ditto, 40(10), 5 to fans so ape over fan strips/fiction they'll read anything, and a 3 to fans out for articles.

Comic Comments (#11-Feb 6 '67) 20(1)pgs, Gary Brown, USF 761, Univ of So. Fla; Tampa, Fla; 33620. Ditto, 5¢ stamp (5), a 5 considering price, purpose, frequency of publication, and number of pages.

Erbania (#20-Feb 11 '67) 16pgs, size: 6" x 9", D. Peter Ogden, 8001 Fernview Ln; Tampa, Fla; 33615. (ERB), litho, 30(0), 5.

Graphic Art Collectors International Bulletin (vol 2, #3-Feb 14 '67) 20(2)pgs, Marshall Lanz, 10411 Lindberg Ave; Penn Hills, Pa; 15235. Ditto, 10(10), get it to find out about the DCTC...letters and ads mostly.

Heroic (#1-Feb 25 '67) 44(1)pgs, Tony Rutherford, 1046 Jackson Ave; Huntington, W.Va; 25704. Ditto, 30(10), 3. Contains as & fiction with a few articles...good repro, and enough pages for the price.

K-Alpha (#28-Feb 17 '67) 84(1)pgs, distributed by Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd; Mentor, Ohio; 44060. Ditto/Mimeo/Litho, membership, 5.

Marvel Mania (#5-Feb 1 '67) 10pgs, Danny Dowell, 5729 Ammons; Fort Worth, Tex; 76117. Ditto, 20(10), 1. A lower price would make it a 2.

OTDS (Vol 2, #9-Feb 10 '67) You know about this I hope!

Pow Comics (#19-Feb 23 '67) with Fantastic Fan Fiction (#20-Feb 23 '67) are combined into one 20pg issue with FFF probably going to become the new name for POW, by John Lebar, 305 No. Jordan St; Allentown, Pa; 18102. (as), Ditto, 15(10), a 3 for the price.

Sooner Comics (formerly Fan Mag Illustrated) (#3-Feb 14 '67) 28pgs, Matt Curtis, 1405 N. Willard, Altus, Oklahoma, (mostly as), litho, 40(0), 4. Though printed offset/wrap around on slick paper, the mag has rather poor layout with some very crude art and fair stories. Quality wise, it can hardly compare with fandom's best strip zines, but on its own it would be worth an ama strip fan's money after those superior strip zines.

"What Th.?" (#4-Feb 25 '67) 14pgs, Marvin Wolfman, 142-18 59th Ave; Flushing, NY; 11355. Ditto, 4¢ stamp (10), a 5 considering price & purpose as a gab zine.

Wonderment (#1-Feb 21 '67) 52(1)pgs, Mike Raub, 128 W. Fairground St; Marion, Ohio. 43302. Ditto, 30(5), 3.

LATE NOTES AND NOTICES

by Robert Schoenfeld -- Editor

From Bill Spicer comes a most interesting article from the January 23, 1967 issue of the Los Angeles Times. The article deals with the fact that a French version of comic fandom has sprung up in a club called "Le Centre d'Etudes des Litteratures d'Expression Graphique." According to the article, they have organized a nine-nation comic strip federation (how'd we get left out?) and published a zine type thing called "Giff Wiff." Of American fans, the French say: "There are 21 groups in America, but they are fans. We are researchers." I'd like to hear from anyone who could put me in touch with a French fan, or more particularly, the club itself. --Bob Schoenfeld.

From Marvin Wolfman comes word that a small fanfest will be held at his house on April 1st. It will cost 25¢ for refreshments and such, and fans could bring comics and related items for sale or trade. There will be several old radio tapes available for making copies of if you're interested, and the hours will be from 9:30 am to 10:00 pm. For more information or directions you should write to Marvin at 142-18 59 Ave., Flushing, NY. 11355.

From Raymond Miller comes word that Parade of Comics is a most interesting 29¢ coloring book. It is currently available around the country, and features many of your favorite newspaper strip artists drawing their characters into a parade type setting. There are about 3 pages from each artist, and 33 artists in the Newspaper Comics Council participated. It's from the Saalfield Publishing Company.

From Rick Durrell comes word that the Joe Palooka Sunday strip for January 8th carried an excellent spoof on comic book collecting, and he adds that it's: "so true!" I've not seen it myself.

From Bruce Williams comes word that both Captain Nice and Mr. Terrific have been canceled. Likewise, the Green Hornet was given the axe. Next season will see the appearance of Batgirl on the BM show, and it is interesting to note that neither will know the other's identity. Also from Bruce comes word that Lancer now has a 50¢ party fun quiz book which features Thor on the cover and many trivia questions inside. Fanzine editors who have been having trouble tracking down the zip codes of un-cooperative subscribers might do well to send 85¢ to Bruce for a copy of his comprehensive zip code guide...his address is 8426 No. Christiana Ave., Skokie, Ill. 60076.

I've received a couple of fanzines lately that were sent free, so I feel somewhat duty-bound to make comment in these pages there on. The first is The Illustrated Marvel Handbook and Checklist, 75¢ to Dan Merkur, 26 Whitmore Ave., Toronto, 10, Ontario, Canada. This is an index of sorts containing, for every Marvel comic from FF 1 to the December 1966 issues, the titles of the stories, and the contributors to them. It also features art swipes from the Esquire article and short descriptions of the characters and their origins. To the fan who who is researching or searching (as the case might be), this would be worth the money.

The second zine is Sooner Comics, 40¢ to Matt Curtis, 1405 N. Willard, Altus, Oklahoma, 73521. My comments on this zine are basically the same as those of John McGeehan (fanzine index), except to add that this zine could become something if pursued far enough. There is a good deal of effort obviously behind it, and the writing throughout is fairly well done; though the art is quite crude. The printing is excellent, and with some other and more varied contributors, it might well become popular.

SPECIAL EDITORIALS

A FINAL WORD ON THE MATTER OF

THE D.C. TRADE CENTER

BY Robert Schoenfeld

In order to give a proper explanation for the troubles the DC Trade Center has had, it is necessary to give some details going back a few months.

Some time ago, Dave Esser (club founder and organizer) found it necessary to go out of town for reasons of business. During the period he was to be gone, he left a couple of fans in charge of the club, and it was at this point that trouble began. The persons left in charge took steps (many of which were outlined in detail last issue) that they thought to be proper or at least advantageous. These fans went to much trouble and expense to help the DCTC build up its image and its membership list. However, it must be noted that the actions of these few people were not the desire of the Center, they were not sanctioned by the Center, and were done without the consent of the Center. This is indeed most unfortunate, for the actions of these few persons acting individually have given a false impression of the DCTC to fans like myself, and indeed have left a bad taste in our mouths of the whole affair.

However, as I say, this was unfortunate, for this is not the aim, purpose, or wish of the Center, as I will explain.

The DCTC was originally conceived some 6 years ago as an organization (small in size) for comic fans who likewise had an interest in amateur radio and used the latter for keeping in touch. However, just about two years ago this group decided to expand its purpose and its membership into an actual club. The new group's purpose would be to help fans with their collections by providing sources of comics, and generally trying to unite fans through several area newsletters. Dave and his staff undertook a large ad campaign and in the process found several fanzine editors who were interested in the group...and also several hot-headed fans who were later to put the DCTC in a bad light.

Well, after my editorial last issue damning the works of a few fans whom I mistakenly thought represented the whole DCTC, I talked to Dave Esser. Dave carefully explained that now that I understood the truth of the matter, the best thing to do would be NOT to print a rebuttal, but simply to point out the facts and apologize for the misunderstanding. It seems that these hot-headed fans I mentioned have quit the ranks of the Center and have gone off in a huff to form their own club; a club without support, organization or purpose of direction. Whether this new group will be successful is not worth speculating, for until such time as they prove some use to fandom or productive, I doubt if they will be recognized. The DCTC is supported by some 13 fanzines and 15 newsletters, whereas this new group seems not to be supported at all where at one time they were a part of the above fanzines.

The motto of the DCTC is the "Program to Enlarge Fandom," and they seem to have done a commendable job. The above mentioned fanzines have, in several cases, carried plugs for this publication and the Academy. With such fine support as they are getting, the co-operation between these two groups may well supply fandom with some great projects.

Lastly, I feel I might make the prediction that now that the trouble makers have been removed from the DCTC, and with such willing and able workers as they have in Dave Esser and Walt Coddington, fandom can look forward to hearing more from this group; but not as an organization competing with the Academy, but rather one working for and with it for the benefit of fandom.

--Robert Schoenfeld--

--Editor--

THE CALVIN BECK COMICON

oOo

oOo

A REVIEW BY STAN LANDMAN

I suppose the first crud-comicon was an inevitable occurrence, but it still came as quite a shock to me. The thing that I found most shocking however was not the lack of organization nor the fact that pros scheduled to appear didn't, but rather the mercenary and "I don't give a damn" attitude shown by Calvin Beck, con chairman and editor of Castle of Frankenstein.

The con was scheduled to get underway at 1:00 pm. on February 11th, but Beck himself didn't show up till 3:00 pm! Phil Seuling was forced to take charge of admissions to the con (and did a fine job of it) because Beck was not present.

The first program was scheduled to start at 3:00, and when it had not yet begun at 4:15 I went over to Beck's mother and asked, "When does the program start?" Mrs. Beck referred me to the printed schedule, and when I pointed out to her that it was now 75 minutes late, she bluntly replied: "It doesn't matter." Perhaps it didn't matter to Mrs. Beck, but to the fans who paid four bucks to attend it certainly did! After this, I conferred with fellow fans Marvin Wolfman, Ron Frandkin, Len Wein, Elliot Wagner, Mark Hanerfeld, Richard Rubinfield, and Ellen Vartanoff (who had come all the way from Maryland to participate) We agreed that a protest was in order. I went to look for Beck and was told that he was eating. Yes, while 75 fans cooled heels waiting, Beck was satisfying his stomach!! This goes to demonstrate his true concern for the fans attending the con.

When Beck returned, I led a small delegation to greet him. I patiently inquired as to when the con would begin, mentioning that unless circumstances changed, we would ask for our money back. Beck brushed this off casually saying that the program was subject to change at his discretion, and that we were holding up the con's progress. We were somewhat taken aback considering he'd held up the con for two hours! Meanwhile, Mrs. Beck suggested that police be called in as I was likely to "mug" Calvin! (Man, that one's priceless.-Ed.) (But more on this later.)

It is interesting to note that Beck could easily have begun the con much sooner than he did as most of the pros due to appear on the first panel were present at 3:00. Never the less, things finally began to get underway at 5:20, when Roy Thomas gave a talk on realism in war comics. Presently, Beck came up to me saying that he hoped I wasn't too angry with him and that perhaps I'd be interested in copies of Castle of Frankenstein which he was selling for \$1 each. I rather doubt if my previous outburst was enough to really affect him, and I can't help but wonder if this was some sort of bribe to ease my anger.

Shortly following this incident, a policeman entered the convention room, and remained for the duration of the affair. Ron Fradkin tells me that I was pointed out by Beck to the cop for particular scrutiny. Later, when Ron asked the cop a simple question about comics, the latter unleashed a torrent of profanity which would have made a longshoreman wince.

At about 8:00 on Saturday night, an auction was held by Beck, and the costume party was cancelled. The latter being due to the fact that only two fans were able to throw together a costume in the two weeks between receipt of the announcement and the con itself. The day's 'festivities' ended at 12:30 am. when a halt was finally brought to the silent movie serials being shown, but by this hour few really cared.

True to form, Beck arrived on the scene at 2:00 pm. on Sunday. At 3:00 a program began featuring Buster Crabbe, though it was scheduled to begin at 1:00. I might add that for me, this was one of the highlights of the weekend as I found it to be most interesting and Mr. Crabbe is a darn nice guy.

CONTINUED ON BACK SIDE

A feature version of "Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars" was shown, and this was followed by a panel discussion. On the panel were Roy Thomas, Bill Harris, Jim Steranko, and a few others including Nelson Bridwell.

Disillusioned with most of the con, and not particularly anxious to see "King of the Jungle," we previously mentioned fans retired to an automat for supper minus Ellen who had to catch a train.

Beck had promised that Joe Simon, Jack Kirby, Wally Wood, Frank Frazetta and others would be present, but none were. It is interesting to note that the con flyers came out on February 1st and that Jack Kirby first heard of it on the 5th from Mark Hanerfeld!

Economically, this con can hardly compare with the other NY events of the past year. In July, John Benson held a con at the Park Sheraton for two days at \$4, and in August, Dave Kaler held a con for 2½ days for \$5, both at very fine hotels. But Beck charged \$4 for two days at the YMCA!

The event was not a total waste, however, as I made and renewed some fine acquaintances and meet some interesting pros including (asside from the previously mentioned) Dick Giordano, Otto and Jack Binder, Al Williamson, and Flo Steinberg.

Lastly, I should mention that fans might want to compare this report to one scheduled to appear in an upcoming issue of Beck's Castle of Frankenstein.--END.

Extra!

Murphy Anderson, artist for Hawkman, has quit his job at National to work for Will Eisner's studio. This is not a result of a dispute or anything of that nature, but it is merely due to the fact that Eisner offered more money. From now on, it may be assumed that the only way for fans to see Anderson's art is by joining the army as he will no doubt be concentrating on Eisner's army books.

Extra!



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SURPRISES !!

ACADEMY FORUM

David Kaler
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Cooper Station
NY, NY. 10003

It has been a busy month here in New York because of the several projects in which the Academy is currently involved. For one thing, the convention booklets from last year are now in my hands and await only a few more signatures before they are sent out. Then again, the articles for the new Comic Reader are in and I'm going over them and setting them up for the printer.

A general meeting of fans took place at my home last weekend and the basic plans for this year's Academy Con were set up. We discussed the types of programs we would like, how to get the people to take part in them, and what types of exhibits to have.

All fans interested in the con should start now to send in their checks and money orders (please, no cash!) to Mark Hanerfeld, 42-42 Colder St., Flushing, NY. 14150. The cost is \$3 to 1967 supporting members of the Academy, and \$4 for general fans. You must be paid up for this year to receive the discount.

The Academy ballots have been coming in at a nice pace, and they are all filed away neatly for the Tally Party in June. But please remember, fans, to sign your name, and to vote only once.

A new project set up by myself and another fan is a monthly newsletter to all supporting members of the Academy. The first one goes out this month and will be a small ditto sheet or two listing the members and special bargains that they will be able to take advantage of to help their collections. As it grows, it will be used to help you get ideas across to other fans about projects that you would like to see the Academy undertake, and ways fans can help each other with their collections.

One project that I think fans should undertake right now is writing to those companies who do not carry artist/writer credits asking that these be instilled. Several pros have been taken to task because fans blamed them for work that wasn't theirs or because they thought that others were doing the work that they were getting credit for. If we all wrote in to such companies as Gold Key and Harvey asking that credit be given, it would certainly clear up the confusion that has resulted over this, and it would make choosing winners in the Alley Awards a much easier task.

A second project I feel important is the matter of Gold Key's new Club Pages. The editors have taken pages of excellent story out of such magazines as Magnus and Tarzan, and replaced them with nonsensical monsters and jokes. If fans wrote in, en masse, we might well be able to persuade the editors that not all their readers are children, and those who are not like this comic for what it is (or should be)...a comic.

Pvt. Derrill Rothermich
RA16991777 Co. C.
2nd BTN; 3d Bde; USATC
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
65473.

I have now repaid the largest percentage of those to whom I owed money, and the rest will be taken care of shortly as I still have a small debt to handle with

one printer.

As for issue 57, it was a most enjoyable issue throughout. You have done a great job in assuming control of OTDB, and all of fandom should be appreciative. As in the past, the news column is the real meat of the issue, but I can't help but wish that it could be a little longer. It seems to be growing smaller all the time. I would re-echo your wish for a longer news col, Derrill, but I'm sure you realize from personal experience that if it were possible, we would have it. Dave does the best he can, and considering the volume he does come up with, it is most remarkable. On the other hand, there are many fans who procure news through various sources, and never convey it to us for print. We can urge them to do so, but no one can force them. Then, too, the winter season is the slack season for comics; perhaps when the summer volume increases, our news will do likewise.--Bob.7

I was also glad to see the Alley Awards Poll in this issue because this is a good sign that Dave will be able to bring the Academy back on stable ground. It also shows his determination to work for the Academy.

I have always enjoyed John McGeehan's zine index, as it provides an accurate guide for fans as to what is available and as to the quality to expect. In the same vein, Robert Latona did a fine job on a most difficult zine in his excellent review. I'm confident that if someone could translate it and sell an English version here in the states, it would do well. Interestingly enough, Alfredo informs me that the 5th issue of his fine zine will be published by a pro with he himself as the editor. It will contain long articles on Tarzan, Terry, Steve Canyon, Mad, EC, and a reprint of an early "Inspector Wade" story by Lyman Anderson; more than 70 pages illustrated, and 104 pages in all. The price is \$2, and it will contain interior color.--Bob.7

Bob Cosgrove
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While the over-all quality of OTDB is excellent, there is still room for improvement. Bill Spicer reviews just one or two zines at a

time, and usually oddball, borderline zines, owing to the fact that Bill himself is somewhat of a genfan. Not nearly as much information is given as in the old TCK Ego Crusher. John McGeehan's zine index is less than useless, since he no longer gives any reasons for his conclusions or any brief mention of content as he did in the past. Sorry, but the Barry-Rothermich-King Ego Crusher was more my meat. See my editorial for more discussion on this matter.--Bob.7

Secondly, I dislike your policy toward comicons. As a newszine, I feel OTDB should report on all cons, for at least 3/4 of a page. The review of the New York con a few issues of ago could easily have been written by ME, and I didn't go. Also, as I mentioned before, you should review all comicons in this, fandom's established newszine. Do a detailed article on the Gateway Con in Gosh Wow by all means, but carry a news feature in OTDB as well. Aside from the limitations of space in OTDB (not to mention limitations of TIME which prohibit enlarging the space), the only defense I have to our lack of convention reports is that I can't print what I don't have. I suppose, though, that we have never solicited such reviews and this may be part of the reason, but on the whole, you will find that when a con is held, article zines usually are the ones to handle the reviews. Meanwhile, you won't want to pass up the "review" by Stan Landman on the recent con in New York held by Calvin Beck.--Bob.7

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